

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2564

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: PRESS RELEASE

1. DAMASCUS, SYRIA, JULY 7: REPRESENTATIVE HELEN MEYNER MET TODAY WITH SYRIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-GHANI AL-RAFI IN DAMASCUS AS PART OF HER FACT FINDING TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE MIDDLE EAST. MRS. MEYNER SAID SHE FOUND HER DISCUSSION "INFORMATIVE AND WORTHWHILE." MRS. MEYNER ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS FROM LEBANON ON SUNDAY. "WE VISITED BEIRUT ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN THAT COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH TANKS AND SOLDIERS WERE PLACED THROUGHOUT BEIRUT THE CITY SEEMS QUIET AND ALL OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR PEACE."

2. MRS. MEYNER, HER HUSBAND, FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR ROBERT MEYNER AND HER LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, TIMOTHY LOVAIN, HAVE VISITED WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN FINLAND, THE SOVIET UNION, IRAN, LEBANON AND SYRIA. "I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY AND COMPETENCE OF OUR FOREIGN SERVICE WHO OFTEN WORK UNDER TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES," SHE SAID.

3. " I HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WE ENCOUNTERED. EACH OF THE COUNTRIES WE HAVE
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VISITED ARE EXPERIENCING EXTENSIVE NEW CONSTRUCTION.
NEARLY ALL OF THEM HOWEVER HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF

INFLATION AND SHORTAGES ESPECIALLY IN HOUSING. I HAVE BEEN MADE MORE AWARE THAN EVER OF THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS."

4. MRS. MEYNER WILL LEAVE ON TUESDAY FOR JORDAN AND ISRAEL WHERE SHE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN, ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON AND OTHER OFFICIALS.
MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER'S OFFICE.

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